

In the Specification:

Please replace the first paragraph on page 1, line 1 with the following rewritten paragraph:

A1
This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial
Number 08/795,691 filed February 4, 1997, entitled "Building Block With Insulating
Center Portion," which issued on November 16, 1999 as U.S. Patent No. 5,983,585.

In the claims:

Please replace the claims with the amended claims as follows:

- A2
1. (Amended) A discrete, preassembled, composite block unit for independent placement as a unit with other laterally and vertically adjacent units to form a wall structure, comprising:
- a first wall and a second wall, at least one of which is load bearing for vertical loads and made from a first, masonry-type material;
 - a connective structure formed of a second, non-masonry-type material and connected between the first and second walls, said connective structure having at least two connectors;
 - wherein each of the connectors is connected to one of the first and second walls, such that prior to placement of the block unit in a wall structure the first and second walls are securely positioned with respect to one another as opposite faces of a discrete, substantially rectangular solid, each face having a face area;
 - wherein the connective structure is free of connection to any wall of any adjacent block unit when the block unit is in a wall structure; and

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wherein the connective structure comprises arms supporting the at least two connectors and said arms provide a thermal conduction path of limited vertical cross-sectional area relative to either wall face area.

D1 Cont
2. (Amended) The block unit of claim 1, wherein the connective structure comprises:

a center form with first and second opposed sides;

at least one of the arms supporting a connector projects outwardly from each of the opposed sides of the center form; and

wherein the arms taper such that the vertical cross-sectional area of the connective structure decreases as it extends away from the walls toward the center form.

A2 Cont
3. (Amended) The block unit of claim 1, wherein at least one connector is an insert-type connector and one of the first and second walls has a connector formation that is matingly engaged by the connector.

4. (Amended) The block unit of claim 3, wherein the connector formation is a receptacle and the insert-type connector is inserted into the receptacle, such that the insert-type connector is frictionally engaged by the receptacle.

5. (Amended) The block unit of claim 3, wherein the insert-type connector is supported on one of the arms and the arm tapers such that the vertical cross-sectional area of the connective structure decreases as it extends away from the connector formation.

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6. (Amended) The block unit of claim 1, wherein the connective structure comprises:

two end arms and a center arm;

wherein the center arm is vertically displaced with respect to the end arms.

A2 Cont. 7. (Amended) The block unit of claim 6, wherein the center arm comprises at least one recess for accommodating a horizontal reinforcing bar.

8. (Amended) The block unit of claim 6, wherein the connective structure further comprises a center form supported on the two end arms and center arm.

A3 14. (Amended) The block unit of claim 1, wherein at least one connector has sides extending outwardly and is received in a dovetail-shaped connector formation in the first or second wall.

Please cancel ~~claim 16.~~

Sub B 17 (Amended) A connective structure for forming a discrete, preassembled, composite block unit for independent placement as a unit with other laterally and vertically adjacent units to form a wall structure, each block unit having a first wall and a second wall, each with a face area and at least one of which is load-bearing for vertical loads, comprising:

A4 a plurality of elements forming arms and connectors for connecting the connective structure between the first wall and the second wall;

wherein the connective structure is free of connection to any wall of any adjacent block unit when the block unit is in a wall structure; and

wherein the connective structure comprises at least one arm extending between the first and second walls and supporting at its opposed ends connectors and said arm provides a thermal conduction path of limited vertical cross-sectional area relative to either face area.

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Cont.
18. (Amended) The connective structure of claim 17, wherein the elements comprise:
a center form;
two end arms projecting outwardly from each side of the center form and substantially
perpendicularly from the center form, wherein both ends of each end arm have a connector;
a center arm projecting outwardly from each side of the center form and substantially
perpendicularly from the center form, wherein both ends of the center arm have a connector; and
wherein the connective structure is integrally formed of a substantially rigid material.
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Cont.
19. (Amended) The connective structure of claim 17, wherein at least one of the
connectors is an insert-type connector for a dovetail-shaped connector formation in the first or
second wall.
20. (Amended) The connective structure of claim 19, wherein the insert-type connector is
generally V-shaped.
21. (Amended) The connective structure of claim 17, wherein the connectors for
connecting the connective structure between a first wall and a second wall comprise at least one
connector for connection to each of the first and second walls.
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Please cancel claims ~~22~~ and ~~23~~.

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Cont.
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24. (Amended) The connective structure of claim 17 wherein the arms supporting the at
least two connectors taper such that the vertical cross-sectional area of the connective structure
decreases as it extends away from the connectors.
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Sub B3 ✓
35. (Amended) A discrete block unit for independent placement as a unit with other laterally and vertically adjacent units to form a wall structure comprising:

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a first wall and a second wall, at least one of which is made from a masonry material and capable of vertical load bearing and each of which has a connector formation and a vertical face area;

a connective structure of non-masonry material positioned and connected between the first and second walls, said connective structure having at least one connector that engages the connector formation at the first wall and at least one connector that engages the connector formation at the second wall;

wherein the connective structure is free of connection to any wall of any adjacent block unit when the block unit is in a wall structure; and

wherein the connective structure comprises arms supporting at least two connectors and said arms provide a thermal conduction path of limited vertical cross-sectional area relative to either wall face area.

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38. (Amended) A discrete block unit as claimed in claim 35 further comprising an insulating mass having approximately the same height and width dimensions as the first and second walls, said mass being secured and held by the connective structure so as to provide a barrier to energy movement between the first and second walls.

~~Please cancel claim 39.~~

41. (Amended)

A discrete block unit as claimed in claim 35 wherein at least one of the

first and second walls is unitary with the connective structure.

Please cancel claims 42 and 43.